

A
PRIMARY GATECHISM

FOR

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

THE

HOME AND SABBATH SCHOOL.

BY

REV. GEORGE S. CARSON, B. A.

"Feed my lambs."—JOHN 21: 15.

HALIFAX, N. S.:

A. & W. MACKINLAY,

1897.

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PRIMARY CATECHISM.

I.—GOD.

1. *Who made you ?*
God made me.

2. *Who is God ?*
God is my Heavenly Father.

3. *What kind of a father is God ?*
God is a good and loving Father.

4. *Can you see God ?*
No. I cannot see God, but he
always sees me.

5. *Why can you not see God ?*
Because he is a Spirit, and has not
a body as we have.

6. *Where is God ?*
God is everywhere.

7. *What does God know?*

God knows all things.

8. *What does God know about you?*

God knows everything I think, say, or do.

9. *What can God do?*

God can do all that he wishes to do.

10. *Who is Jesus Christ?*

He is the Son of God.

11. *Who is the Holy Spirit?*

He is the Spirit of God.

12. *Are the Father, Son and Holy Spirit different Gods?*

No. These three persons are one God.

II.—THE SCRIPTURES.

13. *What book tells us about God?*

The Bible tells us about God.

14. *What else does the Bible teach us?*

The Bible teaches us how God wishes us to live.

15. *Who wrote the Bible?*

Good men who knew and loved God.

16. *Who taught these men what to write?*

The Holy Spirit taught them.

III.—CREATION AND PROVIDENCE.

17. *How else do we learn about God?*

All God's works teach us about him.

18. *What are God's works?*

The world and everything in it, the sun, moon, and all the stars of heaven.

19. *What do these wonderful works tell us about God?*

They tell us of his wisdom, power, and love.

20. *What does God do for everything that he has made?*

He watches over all his works, and provides for the wants of every living thing.

21. *What does God do for you?*

He takes care of me, and gives me all the good things of life.

IV.—MAN.

22. *Who were the first man and the first woman?*

Adam was the first man and Eve the first woman.

23. *In what way did God make man to differ from the animals?*

God gave man a soul, or spirit, as well as a body.

24. *What is the soul?*

The soul is that part of us that can never die.

25. *What else do you know about the soul?*

It is the soul that thinks and feels, and chooses what is right or wrong.

26. *For what end was man made?*

Man was made to love and serve God, and to be happy with him forever.

27. *What kind of persons were Adam and Eve when God made them?*

They were holy and happy.

28. *Where did God place Adam and Eve?*

God placed Adam and Eve in a beautiful Garden in Eden.

V.—THE FALL AND SIN.

29. *What did God say to Adam and Eve when he had placed them in the Garden?*

He told them that they might eat

of every tree in the Garden except one.

30. *Did Adam and Eve obey God?*

No. They ate the fruit he told them not to eat.

31. *What change took place in Adam and Eve when they disobeyed God?*

They were no longer good and happy, and were afraid of God.

32. *What name is given in the Bible to Adam's disobedience?*

It is called sin.

33. *What is sin?*

Sin is doing what God tells us not to do, or not doing what he tells us to do.

34. *How were Adam and Eve punished for their sin?*

They were driven out of the Garden, and had to suffer pain, sorrow and death.

35. *What evil did Adam's sin bring upon us all?*

We have all been born with sinful hearts.

36. *What will follow if we love sin and allow it to remain in our hearts?*

We cannot be the friends of God, or be with him when we die.

VI.—REDEMPTION AND THE SAVIOUR.

37. *What has God done to save us from sin?*

God sent His Son Jesus Christ into the world to save us from sin.

38. *How did Jesus Christ, God's Son, save us from sin?*

Jesus Christ came into the world by being born a little child.

39. *How was Jesus Christ different from us?*

Jesus Christ was altogether without sin.

40. *What do you know of the early life of Jesus?*

Until Jesus was thirty years old he lived with his parents, whom he loved and obeyed.

41. *How did Jesus spend the rest of his life on earth?*

The last three years of his life Jesus spent in teaching men about the Kingdom of God, and in telling them how to be saved from sin.

42. *What did Jesus do to show men that he was God's Son?*

He healed the sick, raised the dead, and did many other wonderful works.

43. *What did Jesus do to save us from our sins?*

He lived a perfect life and died for us.

44. *What would have happened to us if Jesus had not died for us?*

If Jesus had not died for us, we would all have been lost.

45. *What is it to be lost?*

To be lost is to be left without God in this world, and to be shut out from his presence in heaven forever.

46. *How did Jesus die for us?*

Jesus was nailed to a cross by wicked men.

47. *What was done with the body of Jesus after his death on the cross?*

The body of Jesus was taken by his friends and laid in a tomb or grave.

48. *What happened on the third day after Jesus died and was buried?*

On the third day Jesus rose from the dead.

49. *How long did Jesus remain on earth after he rose from the dead?*

Jesus remained forty days on earth after his resurrection.

50. *What did Jesus do during the*

forty days that he was on earth after his resurrection?

He appeared a number of times to his disciples to comfort and teach them.

51. *What happened at the end of forty days?*

After forty days Jesus went up to heaven.

VII.—THE HOLY SPIRIT.

52. *Whom did Jesus promise to send into the world when he went away?*

Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit into the world.

53. *What name did Jesus give to the Holy Spirit?*

Jesus called the Holy Spirit the Comforter or Helper.

54. *When did the Holy Spirit come?*

The Holy Spirit came on the day

of Pentecost, ten days after Jesus went to heaven.

55. For what purpose did the Holy Spirit come?

The Holy Spirit came to change our sinful hearts, to help us to understand God's Word, and to lead us to trust in Jesus Christ as our Saviour.

56. Where do all our good thoughts and desires come from?

The Holy Spirit puts them into our hearts.

57. Why should we always do what the Holy Spirit puts into our hearts?

Because if we do not, he will be grieved and will leave us.

58. If the Holy Spirit should leave us, what then?

Without him we could not be like Jesus, but must die in our sins.

VIII.—THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.

59. *What is a Christian?*

A Christian is one who loves and follows Jesus Christ.

60. *What does following Jesus Christ mean?*

To follow Jesus Christ is to trust and obey him.

61. *Can a little child be a Christian?*

Yes. Jesus said "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of God."

* IX.—THE COMMANDMENTS.

62. *What do we mean by the ten commandments?*

The ten commandments are God's holy law.

* It will be sufficient at first for the little children to learn only the first part of the longer commandments which we have printed in blacker type.

63. *Which is the first commandment?*

The first commandment is "**Thou shalt have no other gods before me.**"

64. *What is meant by having other gods before God?*

Worshipping anything but the true God, or loving anything more than God.

65. *Which is the second commandment?*

The second commandment is, "**Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them; for I, the Lord thy God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children,**

unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me ; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love, me and keep my commandments.

66. *What is the danger of using images or pictures in the worship of God ?*

We may come to worship the image or picture instead of God.

67. *Which is the third commandment ?*

The third commandment is, **"Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain ; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain."**

68. *What are some of the common ways of taking God's name in vain ?*

Profane swearing, and speaking about God and holy things in a light or thoughtless way.

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PRIMARY CATECHISM.

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69. Which is the fourth commandment?

The fourth commandment is, **"Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.** Six days shalt thou labor and do all thy work; but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God; in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy man-servant, nor thy maid-servant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it."

70. Which day of the week is our Sabbath?

The first day of the week is our Sabbath.

71. *Why is our Sabbath called the Lord's day?*

Because on that day Jesus Christ rose from the dead.

72. *How are we to spend the Lord's day?*

In rest, in worship, and in doing good.

73. *Why should we go to a place of worship on the Lord's day?*

Because God's word tells us that we should, and because it helps us to be good.

74. *What example did Jesus give us in this matter?*

It was his custom to go to the place of worship on the Sabbath day.

75. *For what purpose do we go to the house of God?*

We go to worship God with his people.

76. *How do we worship God when we go to his house?*

By praise, prayer, the reading and preaching of God's word, and by our offerings.

77. *What promise has Jesus given to those who meet for his worship?*

Jesus has promised to be wherever two or three meet together in his name.

78. *Which is the fifth commandment?*

The fifth commandment is, "**Honour thy father and thy mother**, that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."

79. *What is it to honor our father and mother?*

To honor our father and mother is to love and obey them.

8. *Which is the sixth commandment?*

The sixth commandment is,
"Thou shalt not kill."

81. *What did Jesus say about this commandment?*

Jesus said this commandment is broken by all angry passions.

82. *Which is the seventh commandment?*

The seventh commandment is
"Thou shalt not commit adultery."

83. *What did Jesus say about this commandment?*

Jesus said this commandment is broken by all impure thoughts.

84. *Which is the eighth commandment?*

The eighth commandment is,
"Thou shalt not steal."

85. *Which is the ninth commandment?*

The ninth commandment is, "**Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.**"

86. *What is it to bear false witness against our neighbour?*

It is to say what is not true about others.

87. *Which is the tenth commandment?*

The tenth commandment is, "**Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maid-servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbor's.**"

88. *What is to covet?*

To covet is to wish for what belongs to others.

89. *What did Jesus say the ten commandments teach us?*

Jesus said the ten commandments teach us to love God with all our hearts, and to love others as ourselves.

90. *Whose help should we ask to keep the commandments?*

We should ask God to give us his Holy Spirit to help us to keep his commandments.

X.—PRAYER.

91. *What is prayer?*

Prayer is telling God our wants, confessing our sins, and thanking him for his goodness.

92. *To whom should we pray?*

We should pray to God only.

93. *May we pray to Jesus Christ?*

Yes; because Jesus Christ is God.

94. *May we pray to the Holy Spirit?*

Yes; because the Holy Spirit is God.

95. *For whose sake do we ask God to hear and answer our prayers?*

We ask God to hear and answer our prayers only for the sake of Jesus Christ, his Son.

96. *For whom should we pray besides ourselves?*

God's word teaches us that we should pray for all men.

97. *What form has Jesus given to guide us in prayer?*

Jesus said, "After this manner, therefore, pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as

we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, for ever—AMEN."

98. *What is this prayer commonly called?*

This prayer is commonly called "The Lord's Prayer."

XI.—THE CHURCH AND ITS SACRAMENTS.

99. *What name is given to the household or family of God?*

God's family is called the Church.

100. *Who are members of the Church on earth?*

Professing Christians and their children.

101. *What is the outward sign of membership in the Church?*

The outward sign of membership in the church is Baptism.

102. *What does the use of water in Baptism teach us?*

The water in Baptism teaches us that we need to have our sins washed away.

103. *Can the washing with water take away our sins?*

No. It is the blood of Jesus Christ that cleanseth from sin.

104. *What else does our Baptism teach us?*

Our Baptism teaches us that we belong to Christ, and must be true to him.

105. *Why are the children of Christians baptized?*

Because they are members of the Church, and are to be cared for and taught to love and serve Jesus Christ.

106. *When Jesus Christ was about to leave the world, how did he ask to be remembered?*

He appointed the Lord's Supper and said, "This do in remembrance of me."

107. *What is meant by the bread in the Lord's Supper?*

The body of Christ, who is the bread of life.

108. *What is meant by the wine in the Lord's Supper?*

The blood of Christ shed for our sins.

109. *Who should go to the Lord's Supper?*

Those only should go to the Lord's Supper who love Jesus Christ and try to follow him daily.

110. *What are Baptism and the Lord's Supper called?*

Baptism and the Lord's Supper are called Sacraments.

111. *Are there any other Sacraments besides Baptism and the Lord's Supper?*

No. Jesus appointed only these two.

XII.—DEATH, HEAVEN AND HELL.

112. *What becomes of our bodies when we die?*

When we die our bodies return to dust.

113. *What becomes of our souls when we die?*

The good go to heaven and the wicked go to hell.

114. *What is heaven?*

Heaven is the holy and happy place where Jesus is.

115. *What is hell?*

Hell is a place of woe, where the devil and evil spirits are.

XIII.—THE SECOND COMING OF
CHRIST AND THE JUDGMENT.

116. *What did Jesus tell his disciples about his coming again?*

Jesus told his disciples that he would come again, to judge the world.

117. *What will happen at the judgment day?*

The dead will be raised to life again; and Jesus will separate the good from the bad.

118. *What will become of the good at the judgment day?*

Jesus will take them to be with himself forever.

119. *What will become of the wicked at the judgment day?*

The wicked will then be driven away from the presence of God forever.

XIV.—THE GOSPEL.

120. *What is meant by the Gospel?*

The Gospel is the good news that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.

121. *What command did Jesus give about the Gospel before he left the world?*

Jesus told his disciples to go and preach the Gospel to all the world.

122. *Has the command of Jesus been completely fulfilled?*

No; there are still many people in the world who have never heard of Jesus, and who worship idols.

123. *What part have you to take in giving the Gospel to the Heathen who have never heard of a Saviour?*

If I cannot go myself to tell them about Jesus, I should pray for them, and give of my money to send Bibles and Missionaries to them.

124. *Will the time come when all the world shall know about Jesus Christ?*

Yes. God's word tells us that the Gospel shall be preached in all the world before the end comes.

125. *With what prayer does the Bible close?*

The Bible closes with the prayer,
"COME, LORD JESUS."



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